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**Presentation to the Department of Environmental Protection
Lacey Municipal Township
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Good Afternoon. My name is Michael Drulis and I am Executive Director of the New Jersey Society for Environmental Economic Development.

NJ SEED is a unique coalition of New Jersey's most prominent labor and business organizations. For more than 30 years our diverse membership has included New Jersey's premier environmental, labor and business groups. We are committed to the belief that economic growth and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive.

NJ SEED believes in balance to all policy. The need to protect our fragile environment while providing New Jersey residents and business with affordable and reliable sources of energy is clearly a challenging but achievable goal. Clean and abundant sources of energy to light our lives, power our businesses, schools, and hospitals is a critical need. But so too is the need to halt environmentally damaging climate change.

NJ SEED believes that the energy landscape in New Jersey will be achieved through a mixed basket of options. With that in mind, ensuring that New Jersey's current nuclear power facilities remain in operation and that new nuclear generation is developed is an absolute necessity in achieving these goals. Most notably, nuclear power produces virtually zero carbon emissions. While investment in renewable energy is an exciting and crucial part in our clean energy future, it will never replace the need for a strong, baseline, reliable and constant energy supply.

Please consider the following questions in your decision on this draft permit.

1. Does the draft permit effectively and completely consider all of the pollution problems facing the Barnegat Bay?

2. Cooling towers are estimated to cost between \$700-800 million in 2006 dollars, according to an independent financial analysis, which is more than Oyster Creek's value.

If cooling towers are mandated by the NJDEP, Oyster Creek would be in a position of economic hardship, which could have a disastrous effect on the local economy and significant energy reliability challenges for the region and the state. Are we clear on the overall effects of these cooling towers?

3. Before a closed-cycle cooling system is mandated, a comprehensive analysis of Barnegat Bay is needed to fully understand all of the concerns regarding its health so that all stakeholders can work together to find solutions to improve the bay and limit future negative impacts.

NJ SEED is committed to understanding the ecological challenges that Barnegat Bay is facing and is working with all stakeholders to find solutions to improve the health of the bay.